



CALHOUN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Pertussis in Calhoun County August 20, 2012

Please be advised that sixteen cases of Pertussis (whooping cough) have been confirmed in 2012 Calhoun County ranging from infant years to 46 years. Pertussis is a contagious bacterial disease that affects the respiratory tract. It is commonly known as “whooping cough”. Pertussis can infect persons of all ages. Severe illness is more common in young children who have not been immunized. Older children, teens, and adults with pertussis may have milder symptoms. Pertussis can be hard to diagnose in very young infants, teens, and adults because their symptoms often look like a cold with a nagging cough.

The bacteria are spread through the air when another person breathes in the droplets from the infected person’s nose, throat, or mouth during coughing, sneezing, or talking. Exposure usually occurs after repeated indoor face-to-face contact. Pertussis is most contagious in the early stage of the illness before the onset of the severe coughing and up to 2 weeks after the severe coughing begins.

Pertussis can be prevented by getting vaccinated. Make sure infants and young children get their recommended five shots on time. Even if you completed vaccinated as a child, you may need to be revaccinated. Protection from the childhood vaccine fades over time. This is especially important for families with new infants.

The school nurses are offering the Pertussis (Tdap) and influenza (flu shot) vaccines at registration for school-aged children through adults. The cost for the Tdap is \$15 for the uninsured or underinsured. There is no cost for those whose insurance can be billed by the Calhoun County

Public Health Department. Flu shots are also available at a cost of \$25. Please take advantage of this opportunity to protect yourself and your children.

School nurses...keeping our school communities healthy